
Moretown Select Board Meeting
Monday November 18, 2024 at 6:00 PM
79 School Street
In the John Hoogenboom Meeting Room
Via ZOOM Meeting ID 620 104 2716 or call in: 929-205-6099

Members Present: Tom Martin, Don Wexler, Callie Streeter, Robin Campbell

Guests Present: Brian Kitchens, Stefan Pratt, Chris Stephenson, Mike Strojny, Susan Werntgen, Mike Brown, Cory Stephenson, Chris Butsch, Karen Horn, Steve Magill, Bridget Harty, David Russo, Sam Rosenberg, Sasha Elwell, MRVTV had technical difficulties

Meeting called to order by Tom at 6:00 pm

Public comment: Stefan was present to touch base with the SB on the fire truck. The invoice was received earlier in the afternoon and delivery could possibly be within 10 – 14 days. Tom explained that the FRC will be in at the next SB meeting to give their recommendations and financing will be worked on the next few days after the meeting. It will be done as soon as it can be. If there is any issue with Desorcie, Tom will give them a call. Cherilyn has already received the interest rates, the FRC is just going to make the recommendation as to how long to finance the truck for.

Chris was present to ask the SB on behalf of Guy Martin what is up with the access to his land. Tom explained that the road crew has been straight out with the flood stuff. The plan was to have them clear a bit for the access for Guy, but it has not been feasible. It is not something that it normally done for a LT, but because of all the delays in this instance, the town was willing to help with that part. There is nothing stopping Guy from using his land or accessing it. Chris will relay that information onto Guy.

6:10 Recreation Department Budget: the budget is mostly level funded, they added soccer nets, to be shared with the school. Mike is looking for funding outside of the town. Susan wants to figure out what they want to put in place before they ask for Cherilyn's help with any grants. They are now in their 3rd or 4th year of the bear initiative, raising awareness that we live in bear country, (they were here first). They are hoping for some kind of winter festivities to take place. A suggestion that was tossed out was sliding and maybe the FD would do a bonfire. Tom asked that Chris update the SB on the soccer nets, they are going to look into different options for purchase. Chris said that they will pick the town forest plan subject back up over the winter months.

6:30 Library Budget: most line items are level funded with the exception of memberships, supplies, and programming are all going up with the cost of inflation. As well as, the old library building since the Historical Society is utilizing it now, there are some costs that need to be thought about with up keep there.

6:35 **Town Meeting Engagement Discussion:** Karen, Steve & Don, (also John Schmeltzer, but not able to make the SB meeting) were present to go over a meeting they had with Susan Clark. Some suggestions they came away with are:

- Moving town meeting to earlier, say February 18th (one or two meetings prior to Town Meeting) "traditional" pre – Town Meeting conflicts with the school board meeting – where you want to encourage more people to attend. If it was done two weeks prior, it would be before the normal school vacation. A neighboring town does a pot luck and provides child care with hours of 4:00 – 7:00 PM. This is the meeting that the SB decides on. With advertising a specific time frame for discussing the budget so that people that want to attend that portion can be there for it.
- move the voting to the same building as the meeting. With the meeting and voting being in the same building you are more apt to get voters to participate in both. This is something that the BCA decides.
- A vote on the floor for the budget, and then 30 days later vote Australian. You would get a higher participation rate. But it requires a charter change. Callie pointed out that by the time that would happen, you would be a quarter into the year, if the town was on a fiscal year, it would be fine. It may not work for Moretown.
- Developing a "welcome" package, something to have on the website – explaining (especially for out-of-state people) "...this is what town meeting is about in New England..." Tom suggested teaming up with the Recreation Committee pointing out area recreation and appealing points in the Valley.
- Door prize
- Better sound system, reach out to DJ's in town, Tom would like a student from the high school to assist in it. People may be more apt to speak if they don't have to walk over to a microphone at a podium in front of others. If a student was moving around with a microphone, it would be much better. Questions and answers would be heard better as well.

Quick discussion was had on having the Treasurer at the meeting, having Carol do the minutes and Sasha oversee the Assistant Clerk side of things.

Also, that having a subject that will be voted on to bring people out, is something that would get them more engaged too.

Tom would like the group back at a December meeting for further discussion.

7:02 Tom **made the motion** to go into Executive Session per 1 V.S.A. Section 313 (3). Callie seconded. All were in favor.

8:04 Callie **made the motion** to exit Executive Session. Tom seconded. All were in favor.

Action taken: Callie **made the motion** to appoint Michael Brown to the Select Board vacancy until Town Meeting (March 2025). Robin seconded. All were in favor.

Reports & Communications: MRVAS MOU will be looked over and discussed at the next meeting. The FRC will be at the next SB meeting, as well as, Cherilyn for the rest of the budget.

A request to have a coin drop for Circle in Moretown came in. Quick discussion was had and Don will do some digging before the SB makes a decision on that.

8:05 **Old Business:** Don wanted to remind everyone about the HUUSD budget meeting on Tuesday 7-8:30

There is a Cookie Walk on December 7th

Don and a friend of his cleaned the windows at the Town Garage. There are a few building maintenance items that need to be addressed there and he will work on getting some quotes and bring them to the next meeting.

Don brought up the bump on Route 100B by Maynard's again. He sent another email to Michelle Redmond and is hoping that something can be done before the plants close and snow flies, so that the Maynard's can have some peace.

Quick discussion was had on speed limit signs, and this will be discussed further at the next meeting. Sasha will get with the Sheriff's Department to see which roads need the most attention.

Don is working on a Community Service Fair for January 11th, he is going to reach out to the chairs of all the town committees.

Robin **made the motion** to approve the SB minutes of 11/04/2024. Callie seconded. All were in favor.

Warrants signed and approved: Accounts Payable 24056 checks 25809 – 25847; Accounts Payable 24057 checks 25848 – 25860; Payroll 24058 e – checks 4692 – 4702

Adjourn: Tom **made the motion** to adjourn at 8:28 pm. Callie seconded. All were in favor.